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NetNations becomes Premier Gold Partner with InterNIC

VERNONNET's NetNation has signed a Gold Premier Partner agreement with InterNIC—the entity responsible for the registration and administration of common Internet domain names. The Web host big business is the first Canadian company to enter into this agreement with InterNIC, and is one of only 14 such partners world wide, joining the ranks of Aricoma, AOL, Prodigy, Earthlink and others.

NetNation's customers now receive specialized, personalized domain registration service. NetNation has direct access to InterNIC's database allowing domain registration within 24 hours instead of a waiting period of up to three weeks.

According to NetNation's vice-president of marketing, Joseph Koller, "InterNIC offers this arrangement to a limited number of Internet service providers (ISPs) or Web hosting companies. Domains can only register large quantities of Internet domain names. We currently have the largest domain registrar in Canada, with about 10,000 registrations at a month."

You can find NetNation on the Web at <http://www.vernonnet.com> →JC

Government blue pages online

BC Tel and Vancouver Directors are providing listings for more than 25,000 federal, provincial, regional, and municipal government offices through a hot link at the BC Blue Pages Web site. The listings, which will be updated monthly, can be viewed at <http://www.bcbluepages.com>.

Richwood computer company helps search organ donors with recipients

Richwood, a spin-off from ComputerHelp Resources of Richmond, Canadians waiting for organ transplants will soon be matched with donors via a specially designed Internet application. The project was conducted in cooperation with the Toronto-based Canadian Transplant Program and the six regional bodies known as MORS (Multiple Organ Retrieval and Exchange).

ComputerHelp Resources designed and developed a near real-time national waiting list for transplant surgeries for non renal organs—liver, heart, lung, heart-lung, cornea, bowel and pancreas. This internet-enabled Internet-based system is designed to make it easier and faster to match donors with recipients.

According to ComputerHelp Resources president, Andrew Lennet, "Matching non renal organs manually is time consuming. The regional MORS organizations calculated their weekly costs by R\$100. With that method, there were holdups, delays and always the risk of lost information and human error. With this new database, matches across Canada will be made immediately."

Challenger included the need to accommodate complex medical information in the database and the necessity to build sophisticated security measures into the system so as to completely ensure privacy and confidence. He says, "The final phase of the project will involve the provision of computer training to

personnel from the MORS groups."

Are the expenses passed? "Extinct," responded Lennet. "It's a Canadian first—and the

first time this technology has been implemented to meet such a very real need."

ComputerHelp is on the Web at

<http://www.computerhelp.ca>, or call 800-844-8752 for more information. —JC

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Vancouver origami master creates online community

Vancouver's Joseph Wu is Canada's only origami master and has started his first online origami club. Web site Origami.org features the Japanese art of folding paper into 3D shapes depicting animals, people, structures, mathematical constants or almost any other imaginable object.

"We say, 'The site is by default the Internet's official origami web site.' You can learn to do origami—the best sequences are there for many projects. It's not only my own work, other people send me that will be great photographs, instructions, occasionally an article. It's frequently updated with new material. I've just returned from a conference in Tokyo, Japan, so there's lots of new videos and photos to add. I also maintain a semi-official list of origami sites on the Web."

The site is well received by those with an interest in origami, averaging about 4,000

page hits a day to three weeks, while incoming donations were served 2,000 pages from international addresses, including such far-flung locales as Jordan, Bulgaria, Nicaragua and Germany.

Wu, who is self-taught, has consulted on origami for film production and advertising industries across North America.

"You can view his origami creations and those of other origami enthusiasts at <http://origami.org> and <http://origami.com>."

Want wireless Vancouver schools

Rogers Cable has connected the first of its Vancouver schools to the Internet via its high-speed Wave service. Following the 20 school pilot project, the Vancouver School Board plans to connect all of its schools to the cable service. The speed of Wave cosmic (that is, at 1Mbps) is dramatically faster than the standard wireless access rates of 33 kbps to 56 kbps and requires no dial-up.

For the selected pilot project, each school in the project is provided with cable modems, and the technology required to link a computer to the cable network which links schools together to the Internet via

fibers that run between buildings and throughout each school. Individual e-mail addresses are being provided by Bell.

MC2 Learning Systems series up

In today's Canadian marketplace, Schulich Industry Canada's Schuster has recognized MC2 Learning Systems of Burnaby as a leader in the development of educational networks technologies, and has negotiated a discount with MC2 to provide a leading-edge technology to all registered Schulich schools and libraries in Canada.

The technology is MC2's software, a refine- ment of their Project MC2 software, used to support collaborative project-based learning in K-12 classrooms. With Java™, teachers and students can create, evaluate and participate in interactive online projects without knowledge of any program language. The beta version v.2 is scheduled for mid October.

MC2, based at Simon Fraser University (SFU), develops and markets Internet and distance-based software for the elementary and secondary school education market. Sponsored by the National Research Council of Canada, the Science Council of B.C. and the researchers at SFU, MC2 has gained international recognition as a leader in its field. MC2 software grew out of the M@er Project, a cooperative research venture between SFU and NRC.

In April, MC2 received funding approval from Canadian Ian Industry Inf. and Innovation department to proceed with a Collaborative Learning Project in Prince George, British Columbia.

The project is expected to result in a significant change in how curriculum is delivered, naturally make our educational tool utilizing Internet to collect resources, can offer interactive online learning environments, and use common assessment tools to evaluate outcomes.

Schulich is a collaborative initiative of the federal and provincial governments, plus industry associations and the private sector to promote the effective use of information technology amongst Canadians. MC2 is online at <http://www.mc2.ca>.

Set sail and simply enjoy coffee

With the announcement that the BC Ferries Corporation is raising the price on most of its routes, you may be inclined to head to your local coffee shop for a latte. The car operation and Vancouver Credit Union have introduced wireless automated teller machines (ATMs) that use special software to accept a customer's Hegistec Smart Card instead of cash. The ATMs are located in the interior of the car ferry's financial institution. The ATMs will only be available on two of the larger Spirit vessels for the first year.

—GLENNA LEE, PAGE 403

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Tip of the day.

A monitor with built-in speakers eliminates the need for today's multimedia applications. The all-in-one system lets you run the conferencing and teleconferencing software without the need of extra equipment. The integrated speakers will also save you space on your desk.



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High-speed chase

CPI clocks 56K modem contenders

BY LYNN GREENBERG

Modem review:

GVC Speakephone Modem
Hayes Access Speakephone 56K
16KB 75-MHz PCMCIA module
Megahertz 56K PCMCIA
Mergence ModemSURF 56K
US Robotics SURFboard 56K
Ziff-Davis Speakephone 56K VoicePlus
Zvezda 56K

These days, the all-consuming passion of online users is the Internet. We can access it at work over our company's local-area networks and at home if we're lucky and sit in the right place) over high-speed cable lines or satellite dishes.

Okay, I'm exaggerating a bit. What most of us talk about connecting to the Internet from home, we mean over a dial-up telephone line. And that means using a modem.

A modem, like a receiver for McDonald's/KFCamburgers, is a device that converts a computer's and a telephone line's modulating carrier signals, which are mostly off-air, to continuous waves that can travel over an analog telephone line and back again. The theoretical speed limit¹ over telephone lines means that the fastest modems can transmit and receive at 56 Kbps.

What about 56Kbps you ask? Well, it's a technical detail (it's actually only 53.6Kbps because, thanks to U.S. regulations) but it also only works under specific conditions. It's only half that speed one way (and no, it refers to its asymmetrical, i.e., one-way internet service provider (ISP) in your house send back messages along a mere 28.8 or 33.6Kbps.

Unidentifiable twins

There are two competing would-be standards in the 56K world: #2 from US Robotics (Orlando), and ISDNflex, developed by Zonetech and Lucent. They are not comparable to what you'll be shopping for a 56K modem, however, so buying the flavor supported by your ISP and ensure that your modem of choice offers some sort of upgrade path since a standard is decided upon. A fresh upgrade is best—that means you won't simply download a file and reprogram the modem for the new standard in a matter of minutes. If the manufacturer promises to send you a new chip, or swap the modem, you'll be forced to endure delays (possibly—though unlikely)—while supplies are obtained and sent out.

As a matter of fact, a fresh upgradeable modem is a good idea in any case. It enables manufacturers to add enhancements or fix glitches quickly and cheaply.

Almost all modems sold today also offer fax capability; some even provide what's essentially a voice mail system as well. Most come in internal and external varieties.

I've looked at a collection of modems supporting both types of 56K technology and one that's simply a remarkable, 12-flops-per-second Thing was done by connecting to my ISP's plus a corporate remote access facility and looking at connection speeds (ability of the connection and, of course, memory). Speeds were tested both in Internet (where, while 56K connectivity was promised (ISPs) or just "What you send back

GVC Speakephone Modem

Type: Internal
Technology: #2
Price: \$199

This was the web, cable and, in one model, it supports the #2 version of 56K. (ISDNflex also offers RSMPplus models.) In a Plug and Play system, installation is straightforward: just stuff the card into a free ISA slot and start the machine. You need to download the Unimodem 2 drivers for Windows 95 (just as you're running OSR 2.016 do the voice line, phone, feature, which includes a full-duplex speakephone). Both parties can talk at once, as in a real phone, not one at a time, like on a radio. With Windows 3.1, you have to resort to fiddling with pointers. Connections were solid and reliable. GVC offers a life-time warranty.

Hayes Access Speakephone 56K

Type: External
Technology: #2/ISDNflex

Price: \$399-\$599
This model supports RSMPflex. Installation under Windows 95 was a straightforward matter of plugging the card into a serial port and starting the update. Windows 93 doesn't do a bad job for its driver disk. Usability remains the same but has a 9-pin serial connector on one end. Hayes supplies an adapter so you don't have to buy a new modem cable. It ships with Simplecom Message Center 1.0 and a CD-ROM full of online service support. Documentation is sparse, although there's a large help file on the driver diskette. Conventional connections were reliable. Speeds were almost unmeasurable—I suspect

the culprit was the non-standards—see dead? Hayes offers a five-year warranty.

IBM 73-6K PCMCIA modem

Type: PCMCIA
Price: \$159

This is the only 56Kbps modem in our roundup—in a noisy dataformat for you



average notebook computer. It modulated wirelessly and communicated at its full rated speed with no problems. As an added bonus, you can use it with a cell phone (with the address of the appropriate cardlet) for one-wire communications.

The card uses an Xlack connector that clicks in and out like the top of a bulletproof pen; you plug an ordinary telephone cord into it—or specify "off" in response to the device code. Xlacks are a bit fragile and can be snapped off by the heavy-handed. It comes with Cheyenne WinFax software/box set with its Windows.

IBM provides a five-year warranty.

Megahertz 56K PCMCIA modem

Type: PCMCIA
Technology: #2
Price: \$199

This is an #2 unit, also with Xlack (Megahertz developed the Xlack). It too supports cellular input, and can act as a speakerphone (with built-in speaker, though), or answering machine.

Installation was simple and, as with its 53.6Kbps predecessor, the modem installed in all consciousness. Megahertz now part of 3Com's stable (I sacrifice any of the nice 3Com fluffiness when I added 364K, which also functioned as a full-rate spread).

Mergecom ModemSURF 56K

Type: External
Technology: #2/ISDNflex

Price: \$399-\$599
This model is a plain little box with slots on the bottom so it can be hung on a wall. There's no power switch and no control volume control, and the default volume is loud. Backup is easy—the connections are very well done—although most of the documentation is on CD-ROM. Windows 95 talked to it happily.

Brainium 'a virtual field trip'

Online resource helps make science current, exciting

BY MAUREEN MACNEILL

This term Rob Waugh's Grade 5 students have already learned about Mount St. Helens' volcano, America's tallest female scientist, and discovered the pros and cons of the Web.

Science has become exciting and current for his students with topics such as these through a one-of-a-kind Internet-accessed program called the Brainium, says Waugh.

Concerned because of a shortfall in science funding the Brainium was designed to get as many students involved in science as possible, especially those between Grades 4 to 8. Says Dr. David Vagi, one of the minds behind the project and its current director of content development:

"We can teach all people," says Vagi. "We realized that we can't duplicate what's available, so we had something unique in B.C., Canada, and the world."

Waugh, who teaches at Wu-Raynes Elementary in Langley, has been making full use of the program.

"The kids like it because the material on there is up-to-date," says Waugh, who has been involved in the Brainium for about a year as a consultant of sorts, supplying feedback to its designers about what he would like to see and what works for his students.

Besides this school is not hooked up to the Internet, Waugh uses his home computer to copy stories, download with graphics or photos, and brings them to his students.

Creating discussions and projects.

Vagi says the Brainium is meant to complement the core curriculum, not replace it, and teachers can use the program in many ways, assigning projects or having students explore a subject independently.

"One of the joys of the Brainium is it's completely recognizable to anyone's curriculum," says Vagi, who calls the Brainium a "virtual field trip."

Twenty-five people involved in the program's creation five years ago work from a downtown Vancouver base, says Vagi, through B.C.-based Educational Technologies. They have been careful to get input from teachers and the education ministry on design and content, he says.

Eight schools test the program in the fall of 1996, and Brainium officially went online on February 1. By June, 1,000 were already accessing the Brainium.

When schools join the Brainium, teachers and students receive passwords that allow them to access it at home as well. A

password will be issued through the Ministry of Education, Skills and Training, provides the service at no cost to schools for the next three years, says Vagi. After that the service may no longer be free.

The public has limited access to the Brainium at <http://www.brainium.com>

Brainium has eight main areas. Teachers and students can browse through sections such as the "Daily Update" to get the most current information on science topics; it is never too late to learn. "Current" introduces the youth to the array of future possibilities in science and technology, while the "Bogzone" uses interactive cartoon and adventure games to involve students in science.

There are plenty of uses for teachers to view, too. "The Information" provides orientation-guided coverage of science. "Mindset Brainium" is an entry point to new happenings while "Teacher Prep Zone" allows educators to communicate with colleagues and learn how to use the Brainium in the classroom.

Vagi says Brainium is designed at Grade 4 to Grade 8 because teachers in that category have no specific science training.

"It's a lot harder to break into Grades 9 to 12 because teachers are science specialists and have more rigid science programs." ■

continued on page 32



BRANIUM MASTERMIND
DAVID VAGI



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Processor: Pentium II 200MHz

RAM: 16M SDRAM

HD: 20G IDE

CD: 52X CD-ROM

Sound: 3D Sound Blaster Pro

Power: 350W Power Supply

Monitor: 14" CRT

Keyboard: Standard

Mouse: Optical Mouse

OS: Win 95 or NT 4.0

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Langley schools to be part of online education forum

BY MALVINEEN MACHIELL

Langley's school board is the first district to log on to a program that promises to be a tool for research, communication and organization for teachers, parents and students.

SchoolCentral, developed by Vancouver-based Family Web International Inc., is using Langley School District 15 as a pilot to shape its program.

"We're providing schools with a place to test the system and gain practical experience with a school district," says Craig Tippins, community relations co-ordinator with the district.

About 10 of the 45 schools in the district



were assigned oversight to pilot the project, says Mike Prince, manager of district operations.

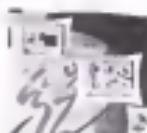
To initiate the kick-off gives the district maximum resources in marketing Web sites and getting schools online and the opportunity to explore the Internet and SchoolCentral as tools for education, says Spencer.

"They will do the product how it works," says Family Web chief executive officer Michael Brown. "We put their expertise to work so it goes off the ground."

Brown says the product will be fast, but the company is not offering it to anyone before January when both sides are comfortable with its development.

"There is a huge need for this," says Brown, who is the father of five children. "I see the biggest problem with education as a lack of communication between parent, teacher and student."

The password-protected site has the phys-



ical appearance of the school it represents. The parent, teacher or student can then "walk" through the school and stop in certain areas to gather information. Some areas are off-limits. For example, students cannot walk onto the teacher lounge.

Parents can browse through the school to find out what activities are coming up and read newsletters, and also have access to their children's desks to see what homework is due.

the making says Prince. Parents and teachers can also communicate with the division.

"I think the part most interesting is we're

now that lets open communication between the district, schools and parents," says Prince. However, he adds, the program also has its

educational angle. For example, it can allow students to work collaboratively on a project.

CRAZYLINK, pg. 26

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Brahmin

continued from page 102

says. "The [Dude] is its own person and more or less gloriously appalled at what he can get."

"I would never have done any of these things if the distance wasn't available to me," says Waugh. "I would never have had time to read through and file these things down in all my free time."

Waugh got involved in the pilot project

more than a year ago, when a Rye school the project came to his school. But even now he's the only teacher or staff using it.

That's one of the challenges to the financial division: to make all teachers comfortable using the technology, says Vogt. "It will take time. Only a few hundred use it day to day; others get online once a week and some even a month," says Vogt. "We need to change their mindset."

To that end, the company is holding seminars for new teachers in its use.

"It's hard to get some teachers involved in the business," says Waugh. "Most of them only see it for itself."

Waugh is one of those teachers who logs on every day at home to review through and see if any new projects are online. That's how his class won a box of trophies in June, through a contest designed to keep users active.

So far the program is being used in about 1,800 of the 1,819 schools in RCP, says Vogt, adding that most should be turned on

at the program by Christmas. The company has another Christmas target: to actively develop markers and hopes to be in full motion nationwide by the time Santa rides over mid-december.

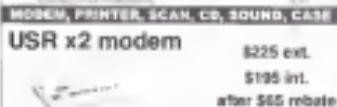
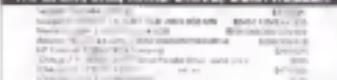
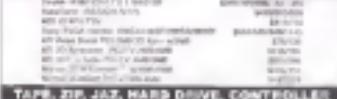
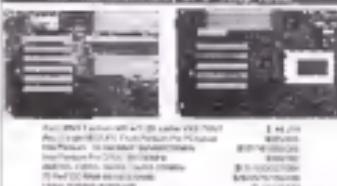
Designers are also hoping to find ways to have better communication with other types of media, such as textbooks and televisions, says Vogt.

But to Waugh, it's simply another method to reach his students.

"I like to use it. I like to see the kids raised on science," he says. *

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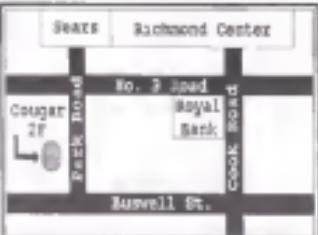
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15 In Non-Interlaced L-R SVGA Monitor 28mm dp
ATX Tower Case With 230W Power Supply
Logitech 2 Button Serial Mouse + Mouse Pad
104 Key Win95 Keyboard Amp Stereo Speakers

Upgrade Option

CPU Upgrade	MMX Upgrade
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AGP ATi 16MB 128bit 128MB	180
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continued from page 8

Maximizer debuts products for Windows CE platform

Maximizer Technologies of Vancouver has released a complete set of system management products for the Windows CE platform, including planned support for Windows CE 2.0 for handheld PCs.

Maximizer CElink keeps handheld users running Windows CE in sync with desktop or laptop PCs. With a single button

CElink synchronizes Maximizer's Address, Calendar, contacts, contacts, and notes.

Now in beta testing, Pocket Maximizer is a full-featured contact manager that runs directly on PCs running Windows CE. Pocket Maximizer shares many features with its desktop counterpart. It has an Explore-style view mode specifically for PDA, which shows at a glance the connections between companies, people, and the links, appointments, and notes associated with them. Pocket Maximizer links to Pocket Word, sends email with one click, and synchronizes

with desktop PCs.

Maximizer Technologies is also planning a set of Pocket Maximizer for Windows CE 2.0.

Click'n'go is part of Sep. Pricing has not yet been set for Pocket Maximizer. CElink is available for purchase by download from [http://www.maximizetechnology.com](http://www.maximizertechnology.com), or by calling 604-871-4800.

Behind the scenes look at interactive entertainment

Edmonton, Calgary, the North side has become Electronic Playground the TV show.

The half-hour program, which airs Saturday on CTV5 in Vancouver and Victoria, offers interviews, news and reviews on video computer products and developments, plus computer industry and pop culture. The show is produced by Vancouver's GigaPro Pictures. The EP Web site can be viewed at <http://www.epshow.ca>.

BC News Briefs are written and compiled by Jason Campbell and Computer Player staff.

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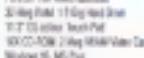


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FREE TRAINING AND DELIVERY

Data backup wisdom hard earned



Softwary

Alan Zisman

This, dear Reader, is a true story. And like something from the last century, it has a moral, but one won't be good for you. Near the end of July the hard drive in my notebook computer suffered a meltdown a drive crash.

Such things used to be common, ten years or more ago, so that this hard drive was rated by capacity, speed, and **HDDP**—mean time before failure ("Mean" as in "average," though the others, more common definition of the word might be more appropriate).

There were no warning symptoms. The computer booted up fine, but there was no sense that I thought anything of it until I would boot up the next morning. It booted up well, but after a few seconds, the drive port clicked ten protest—*i.e.*, an emergency boot floppy tray popped. I found it, inserted, and tried to access the hard drive. I could get a directory—the file of files, and could even read a few of them—but with stabs, with regular—the drive just clicked. The emergency ScanDisk program had the same result—other than being able to repair the drive, it started to run, then came upon something on the drive it couldn't handle, and just clicked on and on.

About fifteen later, I had a replacement drive but a bad price for a notebook—portable extra energy cell more than the desktop equivalent. And I'd been thinking of reselling all my programs anyway—a year or more of losing hardware and software, as I did, inevitably results in a system that gets sluggish, clogged with the dates left behind by poorly written utilities, viruses, trojans. And what's more fun than spending a couple of summer days unzipping software?

But while I had original floppies and CD-ROMs for all my programs (I do, you'll note also the little writer of my data files, graphics, images, files, writers, and files, etc., etc., etc.), I needed for future reference.

The lesson of us, I know about the importance of backing up my data. I'd been doing pretty much that for years, and not gone further... I'd even purchased a tape drive, and used it from time to time. Now when had I last backed up my data?

In this case, the backup was dated June 8, 1997—a mere six weeks as it stands. The good news was that it included all my saved stuff from the past few years. The bad news was that it didn't include anything from the last six weeks. The things that had changed most recently the things I was still in the middle of, given my 10.3.3.3.3 was six weeks out of date.

And frustratingly, those internet e-mails emailed me confessing they'd lost articles and sent them... articles that now only existed in

the crashed hard drive

Now, I'm going back to normal... I'm still installing software as I find I need a particular

the synthesis. I've written a couple of the missing articles, and simply replaced others. And I'm trying to become more disciplined

about making regular backups.

A drive crash like mine is one potential downside

realized in page 24

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Software suite simplifies Chinese input

BY JUNE CAMPBELL

Polycom Marketing of Burnaby is one of the first companies in Canada to copy Apple's

Computer's new Advanced Chinese Input System (ACIS).

ACIS is an integrated solution for inputting Chinese text on Mac OS-based computers.

Using a touch book and both Chinese keyboard and mouse to enter both simplified and traditional Chinese characters.

The package, which is priced at about \$75, includes the following elements:

• Chinese Dictation Kit (CDK)

This allows users to speak Chinese or Mandarin into the Apple Dictation Microphone. The speech is automatically converted into Chinese characters with about 95 percent accuracy. It is sufficiently sophisticated to recognize dialects and accents and, possibly, right words.

• Chinese Handwriting Kit

This lets users write many traditional graphic tables. Users enter simplified or traditional Chinese characters by writing on the tablet.

• The Chinese Seal-to-Spell Kit

This software "spells" back Mandarin text in a synthesized voice, assisting the user with both pronunciation and spelling. According to Polycom's Praveen Chou, key rendering has always been a problem for inputting Chinese script due to the thousands of characters. In the past, professional typists have had to learn complex codes for each character. This option was created for professional typists who only concern about the five percent of Chinese language computer users. *

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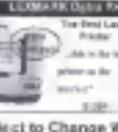
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Software

Polycom Marketing,

Web site: <http://www.polycom.com/~specasia/>
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Software

continued from page 20

cluster. Without wanting to become either gloomy or paranoid, there also the possibility of a destructive computer virus. Or more pressing ways to lose your disk health (particularly common with notebook disks), or even car crash. A recent backup prevents most of those, but it does make it possible to restore the bulk of your lost data, which can easily be worth more than the hard-wares loss and isn't covered by insurance.

And it doesn't have to do it, as you can. Even before my disk crash, I had purchased a 16mm DLT tape drive, for an off-the-shelf Tegic - a parallel port model so I could use it with both my notebook and the desktop machine that mostly serves as my 13-year-old's game system. A Tegic tape holds a lot of data in a disk while it takes a while to backup an entire medium-large hard drive. It can run unattended overnight. An incremental backup - copying just files that have been changed or added since the last backup - only takes 30 minutes as far as my system.

As I found out, an off-site backup is only a little better than no backup at all, my lack of a secure through-linkup was entirely my own fault.

After my recent experience, I'm taking it a little more seriously. *

Messages of support for Alan in his need to recovery can be sent by email to alan@tegic.com.

Search and find utilities for desktops

BY JACQUES SURVEYER

Although my desktop is a file-cluttered Gay-90s—no one disk drive does all of the commands on my desktop. Last summer, I happened to know a lot of path-finders that have amazing systems of their own. Now, when do you want to do that? That's where I did my desktop software. This work or next?

If you are a bit like me and are organizationally challenged, especially on your disk drives, you might be interested in a couple of features: multi-keyword search and find utilities for your desktop. Let me say at the outset that the following two products are right at the extremes between old and new. Shadow.

A friend who has seen my desktop and loved it tells the tale has the three or four years, been quietly saying to me look at it while from Eclipse, the way of Phoenix Software's called Eclipse Find. Eclipse Find does what the Index and Roots and the bunch of high-end text search software does: it indexes all the files on your disk drives and then allows you to search for files containing one or even two strings.

Look into the Eclipse

In contrast to Roots and others like it, however, Eclipse Find is a program in DOS (plus three other systems, including DOS-based and Windows 3.1). Now, Corel and Microsoft Office have similar file search tools, but they are restricted by a number of factors:

- limited numbers of file types indexed;
- very slow indexing or searching of indexes;
- and very large index sizes—an index up to 20 to 35 percent of the size of the files indexed.

Eclipse Find is much more versatile, having no restrictions on file types indexed. In fact you can supply file extensions to include files such as EXE, DLL, and GIF. Eclipse Find already has a lot of the most common exceptions. It also allows you to choose which dimensions and subdivisions to index and its incremental addition to the same.

In short, Eclipse Find is easy to use, the indexing is fast (1.7 MB of files were indexed in four minutes on a Pentium 120 MHz with 128 MB of memory) and the indexes are small (1.1 MB for 1.7 MB of files—less than 20 percent of the original file sizes).

And given that Eclipse Find is run separately, having a two-window point approach, showing all the files along a narrow strip and

the highlighted file's contents in the main window pane.

What more could it want? A version compatible with Windows 95.

Although it worked in Windows 95, was showing its age. It didn't appear on the taskbar when the program was running and it wouldn't display the latest file formats such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

What's Right

One day while doing some Web surfing, I noted Alt-Vista Search Personal edition was available as a free download. I decided to give it a whirl. Alt-Vista is very fast — it indexes 1.1 GB of files in just minutes (150 MB per minute) to 2.3 MB per minute. For Eclipse Find and the size of the index files were 8 MB (less than 0.1 percent of the files scanned vs. 10 percent for Eclipse Find).

Alt-Vista has its problems however. It must be run from a Web browser that supports Java applets. Popular browsers such as Netscape Navigator 3.0 or above and Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 and above can be used to host Alt-Vista Personal.

Alt-Vista Personal works just like the Internet version; mostly the same screen key out, contents and output. But note of the new

implementation and searching views are not with the Internet's Alt-Vista. That means a quick learning curve for Internet users. But if it does mean a clumsy help file, with lots of hidden away or out-of-publication study Hyperlinks, then think twice about it. If we click on a search file brings up its Quick Viewer to most popular file formats including the latest from Microsoft, can be opened quickly on screen.

In addition, one might quibble about the importance of six to ten seconds per query. I repeat the two to three seconds for Eclipse Find, but given that the index covers every file on my machine and is seven times smaller than Eclipse Find's, the search performance is not bad.

The documentation is all electronic except for a tiny CRT icon designed to fit in the CD-ROM jacket (the software comes in a Zipper bag); getting started guide would make the \$79 Canadian price a little easier to bear if I should complain. Now I eagerly go searching to find all the riches squirrelled away on my own machine. *

Jacques Surveyer is a Web photographer, and you will find him at www.surfacing.net ready to answer your searching questions.

In 100 words or less, tell us why you love or hate the Net. Entries due by November 12 at 6 pm.

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Complain, complain, complain

BY GARYN MILDEN

I KNOW IT'S NOT FLAMINGO TO BE happy about anything these days, so I'm going to complain about how much complaining I hear.

Specifically, just because I feel compelled to keep up, I'm going to complain about the Internet, please! From "AOLNet" to "World Wide Web," everyone has their own shot fire something in the nature direction. So it's not politics, but it's a still pretty amazing considering the short name is "communications" and the line of it is "usage." Simply put, it's high time to recognize that the Internet is a cool technology.

"I had to wait a whole minute for the you@yourhost.com site to load and then it told me it would take 12 minutes to download a file!" "Tough! Just think about how long it would have taken you to get that file if you could print the Internet."

When I needed some paper forms and information recently, I found the site and downloaded the file in a few minutes. Without the Internet, it would have required a flight to Washington, D.C., a drive around those confusing stations, a search through the library stacks, lots of waiting in line for information, and copying them when the flight back to L.A. would have spent lots of time and money in the phone playing nice and mad, explaining to a hundred or so different people what I want, eventually maybe convincing them send me the file, the file left a hefty stamping and handling charge, and then waiting several days for delivery.

Local issues

Say, doing all delivery, some Net newbies complain about their email getting lost. Forget all the "you've only got one address" or "you've got two" or "what you've typed isn't right" or "you're not using your account correctly" or whatever. My sending 90 e-mail messages like writing check after check is normal.

Second, I have as much difficulty with CompuServe and EarthLink as I do with the Internet. If a message is important and I don't get a timely response, I attack it. I tend to make sure a service online by mail by e-mail, as by fax. Results usually (there is a problem with which the mail service tells me about) is within a few minutes. I never goes fast kind of service from any other message delivery service.



Next, complain. You can't always get what you want! Get more at? The Internet is a developing technology and the available bandwidth supply can't keep up with the demand. Thousands of tick and stack modules are being added every week to keep up with the world's Internet usage. Local PPP accounts at present are being added every day by Internet service providers (ISPs). Anyways, if you can't attach connecting all the time you can always pay the price for a dedicated T1 line.

Speaking of cost, I can tell you people complain that the Internet costs too much. Between \$20 and \$30 per month, you can get all the Internet access you want. It's about the same price to subscribe to cable TV, cellular phone service, basic air, get a decent of living air is used and reverse communications anywhere in the world without long distance charges.

Locally Complain

A recent report in the Internet costs to local CompuServe users ranks as one of the highest expenses in America, with as little as 10 percent of the highest rates of PPP's per user. In most Los Angeles metropolitan areas, including Los Angeles and Glendale, the average cost was over \$1000 per month.

But let's get these Net neophytes off my back and on to AOL. Bottom line, if you don't like it, no one's forcing you to go online at all. Know cyberspace is people like me who appreciate a good thing when we see it. *

Reason to complain, complain, complain

BY DAVID ROSEN

I HAVE BEEN ANYWHERE ON THE PLANET THAT AND ONE PROBLEM UNFORGETTABLE OCCURRED THAT NO OTHER WOULD BE AS EASILY SOLVED AS WITH A WEB SITE, CONCERNING ONLINE INTEL AND CONSISTED OF A MILLION OR SO KBPS. WHEN YOU LOG ON, HOWEVER, YOU CAN FIND ANYTHING ONLINE EXCEPT PORN, AND TELLING YOU HOW TO GET RICH NOW. ALSO, YOUR HOUSE, YOUR FRIENDS AND YOUR COMPUTER CRASHES, TAKING WITH IT HOURS' WORTH OF WORK YOU ENDED UP IN A TOTAL DISASTER—and not the good kind, either.

Surprisingly, Internet technology is robust enough for business is a lot like competing a software and a phone switching network. Two companies together with a piece of string, Internet would be available and full. The Web sites often don't exist or shouldn't. Lots of time you can't even log on because your local telephone company is blocking more ports or a new schematic diagram for a nuclear bomb using everyday household items. Right as I was writing this, I received a fax from my bank saying my account was closed.

Anyway, the information available on the Web isn't that great. There's no easy way of finding out the laws from the friends that opinions, from the readings or separating the what from the chaff as it were.

Ad nauseam

IT HAS BEEN SEVEN, FOR MORE THAN A MONTH, AT A POSSIBLY MAILED WHAT GOALS THE CONTACT IS MORE

BY INTRODUCING THE MEANING, YOU ARE ABLE TO MAKE SOMETHING ELSE POSSIBLE, ACCORDING TO THESE STARS. WHEN YOU ADD UP ALL THIS, IT PROBABLY COSTS A LOT OF MONEY FOR EVERY MESSAGE YOU SEND. Yet everyone says it's cheap. Must be the new math.

Now, to go to another thought to find out what's going on. It's like going to a public library and finding all the books bound in a big pile, and the titles written on covers. Somewhere in this mountain of unsorted and categorized is the information you want. The question is, where?

Now in the "olden" days of books, publishing companies would hire writers assigned to their various Editions would be employed who understood the subject matter and could create art writing questionable. New authors who sat up late at a computer terminal can claim expertise online. No fax, no memo—and no diplomatic editor.

The technology cheerleaders will tell you the Internet is the best experience we're having reading and learning about our world. Unfortunately, most people out there the Internet can send these forecasts. Though you'd find this forty credits in their friends, family and co-workers. You know what I'm talking about: "Top 10 Ways to Know You're Had a Bad Day," "Get Off the Internet Face—Stay Funny," and other ditties.

New math

IN READING, HOWEVER, IT'S EXPENSIVE TO GET ON THE Net. You have to buy the computer system, get a local modem, pay the hardware software, and maybe an annual package of plus ISP access. Besides, there is with your Internet service, and learn how to do more things—like, say, take advantage of free email services, according to these stars. When you add up all this, it probably costs a lot of money for every message you send. Yet everyone says it's cheap. Must be the new math.

So far, I've talked about the high cost of the Internet. As a consequence of its proliferation, and the increasing number of message systems, I guess the only thing that's not changing is the price.

In short, there is now that about anybody can read it on the Internet. From time to time, however, there is a legal right to read others' email in a certain portion of your own business account to the thousands of hackers who seem to have the Internet get a real job but have all the fun of the world in a break room. Internet in comes and order fast-food pizzas.

I'd love to wax philosophical some more, but I think I've waxed neighbor at my front door carrying a big whois book. I'll tell you later if I think it's funny. *





Sprint starts online service

BY SAUL CHERNOV

Telecommunications company and long-distance provider Sprint Canada Inc. says its new Internet service is far giving Canadians who are not yet online one more reason to come to town.

After a year of development and two beta tests, Sprint Online launched The Most Online at a news conference last fall in a decidedly low tech venue: the historic one-store Elsie Turner Schoolhouse in downtown Toronto.

With the continuing backlog of a wood stove, wooden benches, and the Union Jack flag, Sprint executives outlined the new service. Operating at speeds ranging from 14.4 to 56Kbps, The Most Online offers local dial-up access in 17 cities, including Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver, with more communities to be added.

Users get customized home pages, news and weather updates, a comprehensive help section, and free 24-hour technical support.

The Most Online currently only serves Windows 95 users. David Hogan, manager vice-president of marketing sales and service with Sprint Canada, says service for Macintosh is currently under development and should be available within six months.

Hogan says Sprint Canada estimates Windows 95 users represent about 60 percent of the current Internet user market, so he expects will increase to over 80 percent shortly.

"We wanted to go after a market—the majority of which is addressed by Windows 95," Hogan says. "About one million homes have us on the Internet in Canada, and we think this will climb to over 10 million. We want to help customers who aren't technically inclined, get onto the Internet. We fit also about raising Internet users because we're stressing ease of use."

Phone tag

Sprint Canada promises The Most Online will be as simple to use as the telephone. The company says instructional materials set written in plain language and single integrated training is available for customers who also use Sprint's long distance telephone service.

The service is available in English and French although help desk service is available in other languages, including Cantonese and Mandarin.

"The Internet is still largely an English vehicle," Hogan says. "We'll develop additional languages as we see the opportunity to do so. We're not addressing the total non-English now."

Hogan says The Most Online is a wholly Canadian service similar to Sprint Internet Project, the service Sprint Communications Co. launched in the United States in August 1990. Sprint Canada is owned by Cell Net Enterprises Inc., a Canadian telecommunications holding company and is only affiliated with its U.S. namesake through a strategic alliance.

"We intend at present time, nothing to Canadian to come up with the money."

Hogan says it was a completely separate development project.

Roughly three weeks into its operation, The

Most Online is meeting expectations, Hogan says. He would not reveal subscriber numbers or financial results, saying there will only be

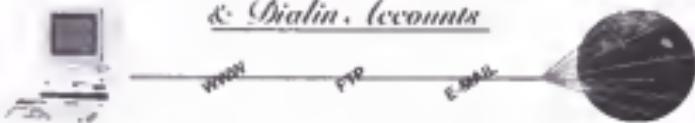
trade public in year-end reports. ■

Site seeing:

Sprint Canada: <http://www.sprintcanada.ca>

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Picking an Internet service provider

The new dating game

BY PAUL ANDYRL

If you were asked to name 20 of the most important decisions you probably wouldn't necessarily in this order) marriage, buying a house, and changing your brand of toilet paper.

Now add it better add another: choosing your Internet service provider or ISP. The same says it all. These companies open the gate for you to get on the Internet by giving you the primary dial-up connection through your modem to their server which, in turn, is hooked up on the Net by high-speed digital trunks such as T1s and T3s.

ISPs were practically unheard of a few short years ago, but since then they proliferated and multiplied and died off at a rate few would believe. They are in a cut-throat business, with each other's profit margins. Their survival depends on the number of subscribers they can attract. So there are say a dozen or more.

Getting hitched to an ISP carries the love and the woe of a dating game. You seriously want to find the special someone, but who knows for certain Internet services often end up in the wrong place than they looked on the first encounter. So how to shop carefully and ask all the pertinent questions?

Most ISPs offer similar access packages, giving you a certain number of songs hours per month. These are often named after studies of metal disease (Silver and so on). The average subscriber uses 200 hours in around 300 and for that you get email, a news reader, and the ability to surf the World Wide Web.

As you have a quota and recharges can be more if you go over, you want to make sure that you can use your time reasonably. The first consideration should be how much traffic can their server handle? What is their limit to user ratio?

All computers communicate—ISPs are otherwise—beginning with the only phone company. They are working with lots of thousands of lines and hundreds of thousands of people; their loss can be of lesser consequence except what everyone wants to call. Thus, at the same time, for an ISP to many subscribers (or too few modems) can be disastrous because it means both nights up front and not just during peak hours. So as far as their room and resources. The lower the number the better.

The shape of service

ISPs are similar to these clubs. They'd love to have you for a long-term (and take your money up front); thus the induction-dis-

scounts offered on yearly plans. It can be a good deal assuming that the ISP will be there for the whole year in this business, unfortunately, there are no guarantees. Larger will flourish, and smaller ones can fail bigly fast. But you'd better stick to monthly plans, with the smaller ones to start up. Don't sign up for the yearly terms until you're satisfied that your preferred ISP has a guaranteed shelf-life.

Typical service plans only give you the chance to start up with Web sites, but if you want to have your own up cyberspace look for an ISP that offers Web hosting as well. Many do, but for an extra charge that can fluctuate while they offer some space on their Web server around 2 MB worth included in the basic package—which is quite adequate for a small person's mostly text oriented set of pages. But start spelling it up with graphics or sound and you'll fill 5 MB quicker than you can say "AOL."

It is a good idea to tally the cost of your Web site and look for the ISP that offers the right amount of space for your requirements for the least cost. They typically bump you up into a "medium" category if you need more than 5 MB and that can cost you about six times the price that you pay on the cost of the excess server space.

Myths of your domain

The other option—if you have an income producing Web site or you feel cyber writing talents or take out your own domain name it comes with some initial costs (\$550-\$600) but gives you a varied website on the name. The added benefit is that you become independent from your ISP, and if you have to move for any reason, your domain address will not change. But all ISPs host virtual domains. This is another question you need to ask before hand.

Once once you have established your basic criteria, ask about the so-called bad transfer losses (HTL) as well. This is basically the amount of content measured in MB the ISP will allow you to transfer to them from your Web site. The bad transfer last, but not something they like to advertise because usually it is a very small number. My ISP includes the first 100 MB per month to upload monthly free. My own Web site is rather popular consisting about eight pages with some graphics so I am fairly close to my 1 MB a month. In practical terms, a means that I can have 20 full free page uploads—people who read each and every page and its contents. This is another fact that are normally mentioned in their

small print sections. Once you go over the basic account packages begin to pile up unless you subscribe to a locked storage which tells the whole world that you are a cheapskate.

Alternatives? You have to move again—self-hosted prior, there are four times more expensive than the basic but with a nicely larger HTL.

Calling for backup

An equally important issue is the availability of service and support staff. Everybody needs to experience lag in or connection problems now and a while, and it is very important to know if there is someone to help you out—and at which hours. Often breakdowns occur in the evening or weekends and you are not helped much by having to leave a "detailed message" on a general roadmap on the grounds that "your call will be returned as soon as possible."

A good indication of a strong support mechanism is a separate calling number for that group—not just an option branching off the main computer generated menu.

To summarize for prospective: Ask the questions, shop around, and don't look at long term. Get to know each other well. It is a dating game after all. ■



Linux distributions and where to get them

info
box

Children Inc. <http://www.children.com>

Red Hat Software <http://www.redhat.com>

Slip City Software <http://www.slipcity.com>

The No B.S. Guide to Linux (Linux Pro) by Bob Rankin (ISBN 1-880604-54-9)

VPG/Linux Inc. <http://www.vpg.com>

Walrus Creek (Buckhorn) <http://www.buckhorn.com>

Yippie!-Computing <http://www.yippie.com>

BY ALAN THIRTALE

It is the firm of *pc Beginning Linux* (see IPC October issue) not talked about what Linux is or a freely distributed OS that offers workstation power and network stability to the PC based user. In this article we'll take a look at where to find Linux.

Before you can install Linux on your system, you'll need to decide which of the distributions of Linux you want to use.

At the moment there are around 100,000 Linux users worldwide, and Linux is available for free on the Internet. There is, however, no single standard version of the Linux—*i.e.* an ongoing "work in progress." This means that, in order to put together a Linux OS that suits your needs, you'll spend a good amount of time finding and downloading the required Linux kernel and related software.

In the beginning years of Linux (1991-1993) most people got Linux by buying long

downloads off the Internet or a BBS (file server) by elaborate procedures that have turned the downloaders onto multiple floppy disks. One of these disks would then be booted and used to install the other dozen. With luck (and no media failures) you'd finish your initial Linux setup hours later with a working version of Linux. Or maybe not.

All at once

Happily now there are other options. You can download any one of several distributions from the Net, or buy them on CD-ROM, tape, microfloppy disk, or floppy disk and ISO9660 format. But it's far easier to just point servers and, in the end, your wallet to buy one of the high-quality commercial Linux distributions distributed on CD-ROM. These are usually available for less than \$50 at your local bookstore or computer shop and will save you many hours of aggravation.

What is a Linux "distribution"? Basically it's a package that contains the Linux kernel (the core) of Linux application and utility programs and an installation utility. While all distributions are based on the same, or very similar, kernel and many of the same utilities, each distribution has something different to offer the consumer.

The task obviously is to find the Linux distribution that will suit you best. How do I do this?

The best way is to go into the world of Linux by exploring, experimenting and reading.

If you have access to Usenet and the few, Linux-related newsgroups for a while, that

ask for personal opinions from people who know practical Linux. If you know someone who's already installed Linux, ask him or her for help and advice. Ask around among your computer buddies; there's probably a Linux devotee or two. Go to a meeting of a Linux user group (such as in the VPCUS Linux SIG). Don't be shy—Linux users will appreciate hearing their own and your experience.

Alternatively, you could visit the Web sites of some of the major Linux distributions and have a look at what each has to offer. You can then make choices or pay a visit to your friendly local computer bookstore.

For looks at their Linux distros

Who's who

Here's a brief overview of the most popular distributions.

Debian: A collection of packages designed to represent the best in the art of Linux software engineering. This also means that its installation utility is a gem-like, user-friendly, and intuitive. If you're willing to pay some bucks in order to get maximum guidance (particularly helpful if you're not a hard-wire geek), this may be the distribution for you.

Red Hat: Along with Red Hat, the distribution that uses the most of the non-commercial distributions. Comes with tons of good apps and presents very few problems for the first-time Linux user.

Slackware: A classic in the world of Linux. Authored by Linux guru Patrick Volkerding, this distribution offers an up-to-date stable kernel as well as lots of software from Internet Linux archives. May not be the easiest to learn, but it's flexible and has had some experience during G5 recently.

Red Hat: A legend in the world of Linux and deservedly so. It's one of installations' choices of the Linux kernel and offering of excellent programs and applications for business and personal use.

Linux Pro: Developed by Workgroup Solutions Inc., this is an enhanced version of Red Hat Linux. It includes lots of documentation, as well as the Apache Web server and dozens of games, compilers and utilities.

Tiggrsoft: This company, named after the Native American tribe of Lakota Indians to the oldest Linux software company. It's a fledgling company that—with the help of a CD-ROM and two supplied floppy disks you'll soon be on your way to running Linux on your PC. As an added bonus, they distribution comes packaged in a 176-page book with step-by-step instructions. *

Next month, we'll talk about what you can do with Linux once you've installed it on your system. Stay tuned!

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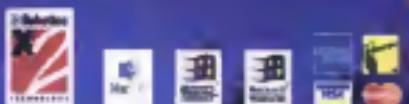
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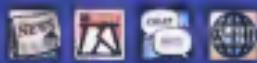
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GET CONNECTED

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Mac Web page programs begin covering Windows



PageMill 2.0 from Adobe Systems Inc.
Windows \$19.95 US\$19.95
Visual Page from Symantec
Corporation Windows \$19.95 US\$19.95

BY ALAN ZISMAN

There are urban myths stories that get repeated over and over, gaining power with each repetition, although no one can actually attest to their truthfulness—the baby strollers lined down New York City sidewalks during the winter, for example. Computer folks have their own kind of urban myths such as Bill Gates' reportedly saying "64K of memory might be enough for any body."

More recently, the belief that 75 percent for some other high number of all Web pages have been designed on Macs has arisen. Maybe it's true. It has certainly appeared countless times in the media. I would like, somehow to show you the research on which the claim is based. Hint: Hint.

Whether the claim is true or not is a secondary point; the fact that you're in the field of graphics and design, the cousin of design tools, have tended to appear on the Macs platform in Macs. But with the exception of the Mac model, and for Apple's only surviving software development environment, it's hard to keep learning, working so make sites, that's because Mac-only products are now available to the PC/Wintel market as well.

If it took spending time with two Web page design products, both ported over from the Mac environment, and both

released in new Windows versions at about the same time, Adobe PageMill and Symantec Visual Page.

Web pages are written in HTML (HyperText Markup Language)—text web stations enclosed in angle brackets about how the text should appear. A shifted HTML cursor needs very little in the way of tools. A simple text editor, such as Windows' Notepad, or the Mac's SimpleText could suffice. But the rest of us are happier with some help.

Helping hands

As a result, the Web explosion has seen a proliferation of tools aiming to simplify the creation of Web pages. Some are glorified text editors, with toolbar icons or menu commands for common HTML editing commands.

For many users, the Holy Grail of Web page design has been the seemingly unsatisfiable, a program that a desktop publishing program has for Web pages: WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get). It's not easy to specify exact fonts and colors or exact placement of graphics, for example, nor when you want your page to be able to display on all sorts of computers. Just viewing the same page on the same computer in two different browsers can lead to surprises.

In many ways, PageMill and Visual Page have it in common. Both were first released in the Mac, and are now most available in the Mac version, as well. Both attempt to give the Web page designer a desktop publishing-like experience. Both try to support the HTML 3.2 Standard features, and add lots, such as Java applets and frames. Both even set 1,024 bytes/2K.



<http://www.adobe.com/>—adobe.com/
I assumed my Macintosh World Home Page," the most detailed and informative home page on the Web. And it's been around since 1991.

Editor: Bradlong



VISUAL PAGE

Set of site...

In fact, in some ways, Adobe's WebSite is more a glorified text editor than an object-oriented graphical program. Unlike the visual tools, however, it is indeed accurate, a single, graphical, web editor, not the HTML editor only. That's because, more advanced pages can now have true pages in the Web browser, as well. Thus, PageMill has you view at least three browser windows: design, preview, editor, and code. Both page quickly and easily, but both require some fine tuning with the actual HTML code. For example, neither provides an easy way to do a *breakthrough* (it often

and neither includes tools to manage a large complicated Web site—tools included in Microsoft's Front Page, but which no one makes that product bigger and more complicated to get accustomed to. The Mac version of Adobe PageMill works with a simplified palette. SiteMill for Web site management, but SiteMill is not yet available for the Windows side.

If forced to pick only one of these products, I would lean towards Symantec's Visual Page for a clean, elegant interface (more like all those Macintosh Windows products), with most features available from a toolbar icon, and more standard right-click support. PageMill is useful, seems more quirky, although it's probably among the most dialog boxes that lack the standard OK and Cancel buttons.

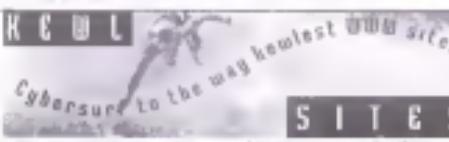
Here's looking at you

An well, some pages that I made, which displayed fine in both Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer, simply wouldn't display in PageMill, while I could display and edit them in Visual Page.

The PageMill package includes a limited version of Adobe Photoshop 2.0. Adobe's a great customer service package to continue to work with that company's products. Make up your own mind, but we let you see the Web site <http://www.adobe.com/> and <http://www.visualpage.com/> to compare download by trying them.

While you're at it, check out <http://www.law.com/>, a similar Macintosh product soon to be released in version 1.0.

Programs tend to cost something, but the real cost will find that either of these products makes it easier to do an amateur, and less time, design Web pages. *



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Canadian Baby Boomers Inc., a powerful national group dedicated to representing Baby Boomers, has just gone online. It will

be using the Internet to make its voice heard, and to communicate.

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CM Staff

<http://www.foolishinvestor.com>

Born here in a city, but that's New York's fault—imagine with a brother really so it's much to have one along with the rest of the Fox Network cartoon family house. Well, we really don't care too much, but we send special thanks to none other than Superfinal, the distributor of the *Smartphone* from *Smartphone*.

Christopher Kirby, Fox Interactive

<http://www.gizmousine.net/~ajpaulkiss/>
With the approach of the next millennium, the Internet in New Age music is not the rage. This graphically appealing Web site shows some of the smooth jazz age environmental music of Rossenov and Carlton who are gaining world-wide recognition. It features audio samples,

Books

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duction to the world of online com-
munications, it is a thorough, help-
ful book designed to make everyone
from the Internet novitiate to the
online master. It helps them to instantly get the most out of
their online time.

Written in a relaxed, am-around-the-kitchen-table style, this fully soft-tutted book dispels many of the common fears about the Internet. Author David Isaacs has created powerful online communication with a host of tips and hints to go online, practical advice on messaging and installing a modem and a communications program. Including handy tips like techniques for connecting your laptop medium to a local telephone system, an introduction to newsgroups, text and graphic games, chatrooms, tips on how to send and receive email and locate free share

ware, and a list of information sources rang-
ing from money and weather to sports, arts
and entertainment.

With an overview of the features and costs
of CompuServe, America Online, Prodigy, and
other major ISPs (internet service providers),
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of the post and joys of electronic com-
munication and banking, and even an introduction
to online shopping, including auctions and
electronic commerce using "EFT". By the
way to "EFT" (editing on the fly high-
light). The Little Online Book is a handy com-
prehensive resource for even intermediate
Internet users.

Although the book spends at least 40
pages examining file-type bulletin board net-
work features, including chat, email, check-
ware, and other services—perhaps 30 pages
may in fact be necessary—shocking
value added—it alone provides an "Online
Checkbook" containing a range of handy
online commands, a graphic road map to
the world of online communication, and a
plethora of amazing illustrations that will
ease and clarify the transition to online
communications.—Sj, R&R

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You asked us...

Printer/Font compatibility

Q: Why is my new printer printing type in the wrong font?

Paul MacLennan David Rosen replies: Oh, those sneaky printers! By printing "the wrong font" I'm assuming you mean that the font you selected in your document doesn't look like the font that your printer has printed. There are generally three reasons why your printer can do this to you:

First, the document you're trying to print may have been created using a font that is not installed in your Macintosh (or not properly installed in the Fonts folder within your Macintosh folder). This can be solved, for example, when you try to print a document that someone else has created on another Macintosh. To solve this problem, simply look to see if all the fonts used by your documents are installed and available in your application software. If any font is not there, install it or change the font to your document to something you have. Some application software programs such as Adobe Photoshop and QuarkXPress even allow you to generate a list of all fonts used within a given document. This is especially helpful if you take your print job to a third-party service bureau to print.

Second, your document may contain an EPS (Encapsulated PostScript) graphic that was created using a font not installed in your System. This can happen with some types of

clip art and even when you download some graphics from the Internet. Again, the best solution is to ensure the font used in the EPS graphic is available to your Mac. Often, you'll need to ask reference designers the particular graphic for the font name. Alternatively, save a postscript file and print the first font that a need font is "missing" and recompile a subset font for you.

Desktop publishing (DTP) programs, for example, usually do this and even give you the choice of whether or not the font substitution is permanent or just temporary. It may be possible to use an EPS-based drawing program such as Adobe Illustrator to convert the font used to a graphic outline of the font. That way, you don't need to actually have the font installed in order to use it at least for the most part.

Finally, if you're using an Apple keyboard and have "font substitution" turned on in the font dialogues box, you might get strange results. Specifically, if you have a PostScript laser printer and you are using New York, for example, your Mac will attempt to print out a close approximation of Helvetica (or PostScript font) and not New York. Similarly,消子 will print out an anti-aliasing version of Helvetica, and so on. To fix this problem, remember to format your documents in the fonts designed for your printer or this case, a PostScript laser printer. Printers that have font names such as Serave, Lanston, Times or

Son Francisco are designed for inkjet printers and will print improperly on a laser printer.

Mac OS 8.0 bugs at new OS

Q: I just came back from vacation and found the computer people have finally delivered my long-awaited System 8.0. The support rep reluctantly installed the new software and checked everything out. The problem is that my Power Mac 7200 is no longer able to display high resolutions on my Apple sync monitor. What's going on?

MacSmile! David Rosen replies: Dear Alan, Don't worry, nothing's broken. The problem is the way in which your new OS handles your hardware and it can be easily corrected using a patch from Apple. In fact, the problem you're describing is one common to all Power Macs with Apple sync (including the Power Mac 7200, 7300, and 7400) and an Apple sync or Apple SyncSync monitor.

When the monitor is attached to the ADB Display Connector (that's the one with five-coax "pin holes"), System 8.0 can't figure out how to display resolutions beyond the standard Aquatint pixels. Even

welder in the fact that the Monitor and Sound control panel doesn't even yet give you a choice about things! So what's weird you say, the dialogue box gives you an option of doing more pixels in your screen.

The solution, fortunately, is simple. You need to update the software for your Macintosh's monitor to Application 4.3 or greater. You can download this software from Apple's Web site at www.apple.com/support/techinfo/. Best of all, it's free!

Resolving unneeded animations

Q: Can you tell how to get rid of the animations that run in the start of the games I download with Napster? They never stop. I've tried to turn off Napster, but have now because tracking and a waste of time.

Don

Klein offered response: Not a problem. Just open the Settings for the game and disabled the button for playing the opening movie.

Which MP3 is for you?

Q: Do the terms "MP3" and "32x MP3" refer

to different things?

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You asked us...



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standards. Any ideas? Thanks.

William

Kirby Linfield responds: What you want to do is a long format, and you will most likely need to type this from the command prompt. When you are installing DOS, after booting from the first two (or three) diskettes, press F3 to go to the command prompt. Then type (or copied) "FORMAT C: /F" (or whatever drive you are installing DOS on) and for a long format type "FORMAT C: /FS MYFS" (for a long DOS format). You must understand on the format command, type "HELP FORMAT" for more information. The DOS command prompt is where the WORKPLACE Shell is running.

Long name taught

Q: I am using long filenames in my DOS files. I don't want to copy these to my PC because it's too slow. When I try to do this I get a message "Pathfilename exceeded maximum length." I guess that's because of the FAT limitation, so is there a way to format the floppy DOS or no copy these files without renaming all of them? Thanks.

Hancy

I've decided to respond: What you are running into is the FAT file system's file length limit of 8.8 characters. If you copy files from the one media prompt, there is no easy way around this; just use a compression program like ZIP to compress all of your files instead! Luckily, for DOS users, DOS 3.30 introduced the Workplace Shell. Simply open the Autoexec.bat file

directive, your DOS/32 documents and drag and drop them onto the floppy disk, save the file, boot the Workplace Shell, type "FORMAT A:" (or whatever drive you have), then copy them from the floppy disk to your A: drive. At least this way you can keep track of the long filename on the floppy disk, so if you ever want to copy them onto your A: (a real system), make sure you copy them from the Workplace Shell, not the command prompt. As for formating floppies with long filenames, some users have had limited success using third-party floppie drivers, but this is not a viable option for the average DOS user.

Shell vs. PM

Q: What is the difference between the Workplace Shell (WPS) and the Presentation Manager (PM)? I'm confused from your article.

Heinz

Kirby Linfield responds: The Workplace Shell is the object-oriented graphical user interface of DOS 3.30 and higher, which itself is a Presentation Manager program to consist of a part of your user and how you can manipulate objects by using the mouse.

The Presentation Manager is the graphical user interface for which DOS 3.30 programs written in PM and programs can run. If you do not want to run the WPS, you can use a replacement shell such as Program Commander's or Microsoft's own programs, including PM programs (e.g., you can run the Presentation Manager without the Workplace Shell, but you cannot run the Workplace Shell without the Presentation Manager). Hope this helped!

Bad-disk comp

Q: Can I boot basically any operating system that fits onto my 1.44MB using this "your DOS from A:" option? Thanks in advance.

Ronald

Kirby Linfield responds: While you can run many different operating systems through DOS's Boot from drive A, you cannot boot any protected mode operating systems, such as Linux or Windows NT. You can, however, boot various flavours of DOS (including Windows 95's DOS) and even some variations of UNIX, including Minix.

Quarantine mega

Q: About three weeks ago both of my computers, a 486 and a 386-33 with a hard drive, started crashing on the same date. There was no virus. I tried my utility (by using FDISK) and my 386/33's original hard drive using DOS's disk check. A problem I'm having while trying to restore my 486's hard drive was that when I used FDISK, it reported only 127 of its 130 MB. When I did a physical hard drive check, there was only 122 MB. I'm looking for a way to get the utility to fix this. Please help.

E. Cheung

Alan Cheung replies: Sounds like a very bad day! The reality is that hard drives crash & lose data over the summers, as well. Keep repeating "Scan up frequently" - back up frequently. "It sounds like you're having the problem also described because older PC computers are

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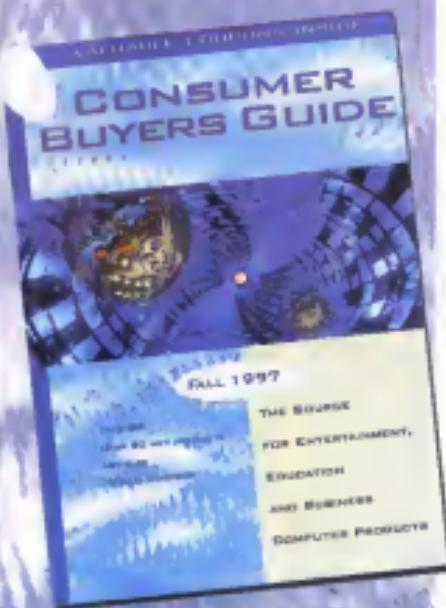
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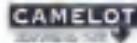
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FROSTY'S

Great gaming sites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 54

seriously Great downloads and cheat codes are also available here.

Adventurer Vault

Any Web site that pays as much attention to the online Quake culture as Adventurer Vault gets thumbs up in my book. Besides coverage of Quake add-ons and mod converters, the site has really made strides in the past year, focusing strongly on game reviews, previews, news, interviews, and the latest game demos available.

Its trademark blurb and people name-mongering and stock certificates make Adventurer Vault an aficionado's fan favorite instead. Also check out one of its offshoot publications, Elite Games, for excellent 3D gaming coverage.

Gamersmama

This Tübingen-based e-zine has been linking across virtual but since it debuted on the Web a little over a year ago. Talk about expansion—the site now publishes content in four languages: English, German, Japanese, Portuguese, and Italian. Gamersmama's strengths are in its feature reviews, game reviews, interviews, and its download department of often hundreds of cool mouse-like readers for games besides Quake and patches.

Another distinct addition to the Gamersmama family is a subset of 10 more pages devoted to hot current or upcoming games, such as Starcraft, Diablo, Quake II, and Command & Conquer Red Alert, as well as a few.

PC Games

PC Gamer is the only site mentioned here that has a paper counterpart, which also happens to be the number-one selling computer game magazine in the world. As with GameSpot, the site caters to very serious computer gamers and is best known for its daily news.

Back to the Box

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 50

Command, Delusion, and Lazar Landau, to name a few. All 12 of his small shareware games are available at his site and are top downloads—you can even fit them all on one floppy disk!

Reversible Facilities

The last batch of arcade clones P.I. mention are designed from the ground up by Cheap Programming and they boast a healthy catalog of offerings such as Galaxian, Computer Frogger, Donkey Kong, Burger Time, Gauntlet, Space Invaders, Phoenix, and Ms. Pacman.

The good news is that they are excellent emulators of their predecessors and the download sizes are extremely small, averaging 340KB or so. The downside to all this is that this is amateurware, so you'll only get a couple of levels per game and there you must shell out roughly US\$15 for the code to unlock the full game. Most games ship with both "classic" and "cheap" mode (new graphics and other features) support for pentiums and non-pentiums (386 or 486). *

Leave a little time for game reviews, download of the day, and upcoming game coverage in development.

Unfortunately no strategy department is not up to date for game walkthroughs, cheat codes, and guides to older titles are all lost. Check out its enormous Quake II screenshot gallery while you're here.

GameSpot

To round off this six-pack of great online PC gaming publications is GameSpot—one of the oldest and highly regarded sites of the bunch. GameSpot knocked me socks off with its

intelligent 3D coverage this year but its original sections are rapidly becoming news, hardware reviews, game reviews, pictures, and group therapy areas. GameSpot is part of the larger United GameSite Online group—a definite must for PC and console game fans, as well as an Internet connection. Enjoy! *

Expand Your (without collapsing your



SOUNDS 5500

Caution, giants merging

BY SAIL CHIRIBA

James Dolan is not so anxious about

Internet service provider (ISP) ComputerOne Online Services pending approval by U.S. regulators

The transaction involves a complex readjusting of assets. It began with AOL's Block reacquiring the title in early September of

an majority holding of Crossfire Corp. shares to WorldCom Inc., a U.S. network and telecommunications services provider.

Within a day, WorldCom turned around and exchanged Crossfire's Internet Services division to Dulles, Virginia-based AOL in return for ANS Communications Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of AOL, that provides high-level network services. AOL also stands to receive US\$175 million from the deal which it estimates is worth \$425 million.

"We are comfortable and confident that the deal will be approved," AOL spokesman Rich D'Amato told *The Computer Player*. "We know from the beginning that it could take six months to close, though we all agree the sooner the better."

Adding ComputerOne's 2.6 million users to AOL's nine million boosts the latter's standing as the largest ISP in the world.

Unique identities

AOL has more than 100,000 users in Canada, and while the ComputerOne users will add another 10,000 Canadian subscribers to the AOL fold, D'Amato says the two services will remain distinct. "People will continue to receive the same services," he says. "We intend to operate ComputerOne as a separate brand."

D'Amato says ComputerOne will retain its Colchester, Ont. headquarters, but acknowledged there could be other changes if the sale is approved.

Somewhere down the line we'll be looking at what can be done in terms of content and technologies in order to enhance the experience of our members," D'Amato says.

As well, AOL won't be making any decisions regarding content or technology until the transaction is approved, according to D'Amato.

CompuServe spokesperson Steve Cawley also says the two services would remain distinct. He adds that CompuServe was busy beefing up its Canadian content prior to the announcement, and will continue to do so.

Bad endings?

Jesse Henth, a Toronto media account rep, says the agreement increases the corporate concentration of media and telecommunications ownership and is especially dangerous because governments are allowing companies to regulate themselves.

"Under the banner of convergence, the telecommunications industry is consolidating staff and accumulating substantial political power at the expense of the global information society," Henth says. "If a government regulates the internet, does an so-called democratic system by which you can challenge that? However, when corporations regulate themselves, there isn't a any democratic means to challenge them." *

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蒙恬筆式環境

手寫新世代 **V6.0** 特“易”功能
 中文電腦不求人

十一月十五日正式隆重推出

歡迎同業及用戶來臨參加
蒙恬筆式環境6.0 PC聯盟系列產品介紹發佈會

日 時：一九九七年十一月十三日（星期三）
 時 間：下午二時
 參 訪 請 聽 早 搭 便 訊。TEL: (604) 278-6227

PEN POWER + **RichWin4.2+ FullVersion**
蒙恬筆記 + **利方多元中文系統**

重要全新功能

• 增強資料輸入功能，新增簡體／繁體切換功能 (Hotkey)。使用方便，已不必考慮繁體或簡體的輸入問題。

• 支持多種輸入法，支持個人喜歡的輸入法 (Hotkey)。簡單易用，隨時隨地，改變，如“老鳥”一樣得心應手。

• 通過文字學習，可自動學習使用者日常輸入的規律，並應用到其他文字上，提高輸入速度 (Hotkey)。例如：在輸入 “ABCDEF” 這六個字母時，第一點到 A，第二點到 B，以此類推，直至輸入完成。

• 第一頁到 Last Page，頁面的分頁、合頁、一頁多頁統一，必須使用 “Page” 而不必再用到複雜的鍵盤操作。

• 網上交換，與 Microsoft Exchange、Lotus Notes、Lotus Domino、

完全配合——

各種工作平台	各種文書處理軟件	網上訊息軟件
OS/2	Word	Outlook
Windows 3.1	Microsoft Office	Corel Draw
Windows 95	Microsoft Office 97	Adobe Photoshop
Windows NT	Microsoft Word	
Macintosh	Excel Lotus 1-2-3	互聯網 E-mail
	Smart Suite	

買一得六，送超值軟體

• 蒙恬筆所用文字卡由 NEC 供應。
 • 蒙恬筆所用 LanTalk 智能型網路卡由長捷供應。
 • 蒙恬筆所用 Winbond 多串行卡由長捷供應。
 • 蒙恬筆所用 PCI 行程定義卡由長捷供應。
 • 蒙恬筆所用 PCI 硬盤控制器由長捷供應。
 • 蒙恬筆所用 VGA 卡由 VGC 製造供應。

另附送九七九八款系統附件八件合十件型

本地及外地用戶升級

蒙恬筆凡能將 5.0 以下本地和异地商店和公司本地升級選擇
 蒙恬用戶版本升級选择商店

熱量與電腦 的關係(一)

作者：林曉雲(JanLin)

— 5 —

那麼這兩家店在半導體(以及CPU)這項它是屬於半導體的民國裡，一直是佔著領地盤的地位？

五、用本条款的人甚至想调查你

電風扇的前面有一個風扇(每個有扇的電器的人都知道)；在D型的上面也有一個小的散熱風扇(那時需要散熱，應該比散熱器好)

BIS 恒基中文電腦公司
BIS Information Systems
10233 - 10235, Boundary Street, Vancouver, BC V6A 1E2
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Fax: (604) 540-0114
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<http://www.bis.com/>

McMillan Help Software 電子書籍 教育教材 教學系統

Super Asia Software for

Support for Microsoft Office 97 and Windows NT

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二十一、清初詩人

- Close Star for Windows 95 (Chm)
 - RichView for Windows 95 (Chm)
 - MSI Window Creation Toolkit
 - Java Win32 API Share (JWSA)
 - FontSight Asia Multi Script (JSA)
 - Dragon Win32 API Share (DSW)
 - Lang for ms-Charset (C2Rex)
 - 中日語混用體系手冊
 - 中文之光 - 遊戲立刀手冊
 - 圖說國際 - 畫報 - 圖說天下資訊
 - 中文不單獨手冊 - 情書傳奇 - 情書傳奇
 - 蘋果 - 蘋果筆記手冊 - 安卓
 - 安智手冊 (99% of Chinese PDA)
 - 中文字源字典手冊
 - 中文字源字典手冊 - 5380

Computer Software

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Pentium 300 - \$1,969

Per capita 166 - 177

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| <p>【電腦教室】</p> <p>Computer Classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet (IE) • Photoshop • 中文字打字練成 <p>(這題一、二、三、四、五、六、七、八、九題是「鍵盤指點」)</p> <p>Office Services, Chinese Typing.</p> | <p>【Internet 快報】</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 免費 Internet 無人看，歡迎訂閱 • www.快報網址 (請上 www) • 新聞資訊網 (www press) • http://www.新闻网.com <p>中文 CD 音樂、原聲電影影集</p> |
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